



contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE RECEIVES FOURTH CONSECUTIVE FOUR-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

MIAMI—May 11, 2011—Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired has entered the top eight percent of U.S. charities, receiving its fourth consecutive 4-star rating, the highest rating possible, from Charity Navigator in recognition of its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances.

The notification letter from Charity Navigator, the widely respected independent evaluator of not-for-profit finances, states: "Only 8% of the charities rated by Charity Navigator have received at least 4 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America."

"It is important to our donors and grantors that their investment is used for client services to the fullest extent," said Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia A. Jacko. "That we are in the top eight percent of American charities for fiscal responsibility is especially appropriate as we celebrate 80 years of excellence in 2011." Miami Lighthouse, Florida's largest and oldest private agency serving the blind and visually impaired, opened in Miami in 1931. With an expanded facility at the original location, as well as mobile units that travel to public schools and senior centers, Miami Lighthouse now serves 15 times as many clients as it did in 2004.

Additional information is available on the Miami Lighthouse web site:
www.miamilighthouse.org.

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MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE MISSION STATEMENT:

*To provide vision rehabilitation
and eye health services
that promote independence,
to educate professionals,
and to conduct research in related fields.*



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May 1, 2011

Virginia Jacko
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
601 Southwest Eighth Avenue
Miami, FL 33130

Dear Virginia Jacko:

On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired on achieving our coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management.

As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, highlights the fine work of efficient charities such as your own, and provides donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make.

Based on the most recent financial information available, we have calculated a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired has earned our fourth consecutive 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Only 8% of the charities we rate have received at least 4 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

Forbes, *Business Week*, and *Kiplinger's Financial Magazine*, among others, have profiled and celebrated our unique method of applying data-driven analysis to the charitable sector. We evaluate ten times more charities than our nearest competitor and currently attract more visitors to our website than all other charity rating groups combined, thus making us the leading charity evaluator in America. Our irrefutable data shows that users of our site gave more than they planned to before viewing our findings, and in fact, it is estimated that last year Charity Navigator influenced over \$10 billion in charitable gifts.

We believe our service will enhance your organization's fundraising and public relations efforts. Our favorable review of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired's fiscal health will be visible on our website as of May 1st.

We wish you the best in all of your charitable endeavors.

Sincerely,

Ken Berger
President & Chief Executive Officer

www.charitynavigator.org